

**ANCROD IRRADIATED, IMPREGNATED OR COATED SUTURES AND OTHER FIRST AID OR WOUND MANAGEMENT BANDAGING MATERIALS FOR MINIMIZING SCARRING AND/OR PREVENTING EXCESSIVE SCAR FORMATION**

Abstract of the Invention

A method for minimizing scarring and preventing excessive scar formation at an injury site is disclosed. The method involves the topical and/or local application of a therapeutically effective amount of a defibrinogenating agent or of a fibrinolytic agent that may be delivered in an appropriate vehicle in a controlled- or timed-release manner. In accordance with the principles of the invention, the defibrinogenating agent or fibrinolytic agent is applied as a coating on, or is irradiated or impregnated into or onto a delivery vehicle such as, for example, sutures, dissolvable sutures, bandages, gauze pads, or other types of first aid bandaging materials. Such application may take the form of a controlled- or timed-release aspect of either the vehicle, the delivery material or the therapeutic agent, such that the release of the therapeutic agent may be regulated to produce an appropriate therapeutic pattern or defibrinogenation or fibrinolysis. In a preferred aspect of the invention, the defibrinogenating agent is ancrod, and the mode of application is as ancrod-coated sutures.